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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK

AND FRIENDS

Inside this issue:

THE EASTER ELECTION
by Carl Barks

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

Continuing a long-standing tradition in Disney comic books, we're leading this issue with an Easter-themed story. And what better Easter-themed story than "The Easter Election," a classic Carl Barks 10-pager pitting Donald against his eternally-lucky nemesis, cousin Gladstone Gander.

Barks often commented in interviews and in conversations that he created Gladstone as the archetypal representation of the "other guy" that everyone dislikes because everything goes so much better for him. He somehow manages to have a better job, a better house, a better car; he somehow manages to have a generally better life than you, apparently through no fault of his own, just because he is "luckier" than you. Barks' contention was that everyone knew someone like this. He averred that he himself had known several over the course of his life and always found them annoying. Gladstone, as the penultimate "lucky guy" icon, was presumably Barks' way to externalize his frustrations. And in so doing he provided us with one of the most classic creations in comic book history.

While on the subject of luck (and because I haven't filled out this column yet), I want to take a moment to comment on how fortunate I feel to have the production staff who work with me here at Gemstone, and for this month to particularly praise my Assistant Editor, Sue Kolberg. Since joining the group two years ago, she has time and again proved herself invaluable in coordinating the day-to-day activities that revolve around producing a line of periodicals. Add to that her not-inconsiderable talents as a production and layout artist, a colorist, a letterer, and a designer, and we are all truly lucky to have her on board the Gemstone creative team. (Nice wraparound back into the subject of luck, eh?)

—John Clark

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **THE EASTER ELECTION**
Story & Art: Carl Barks
(WDC&S 152, 1953)
Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

Mickey Mouse **GURU GOOFY**
Story: Sarah Kinney
Art: C. Ferioli & C.R. Teixido
Color: Kneon Transitt
Lettering: Susie Lee

Donald Duck **MASTER OF MICE**
Story: Gorm Transgaard
Dialogue: David Gerstein
Art: Vicar
Color: Marie Javins
Lettering: Jon Babcock

Front cover art by Mau Heymans, color by Sue Kolberg

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF APRIL 10
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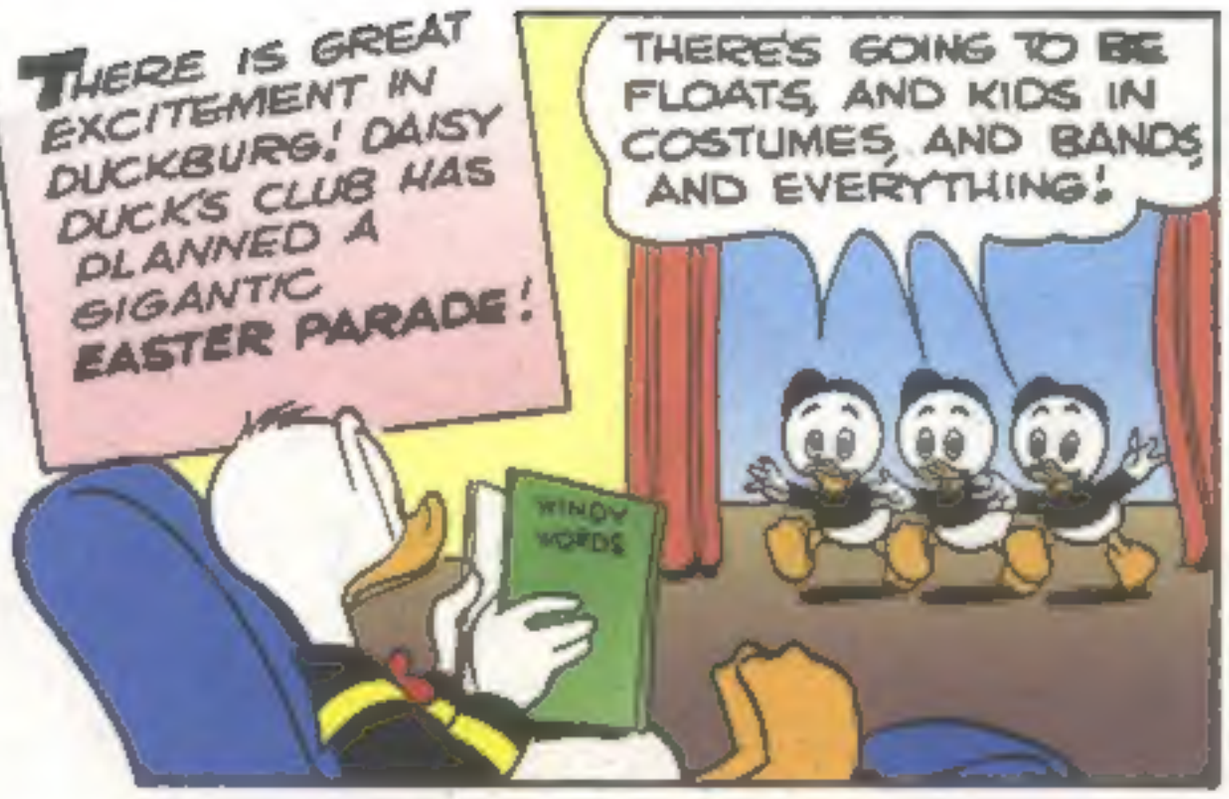
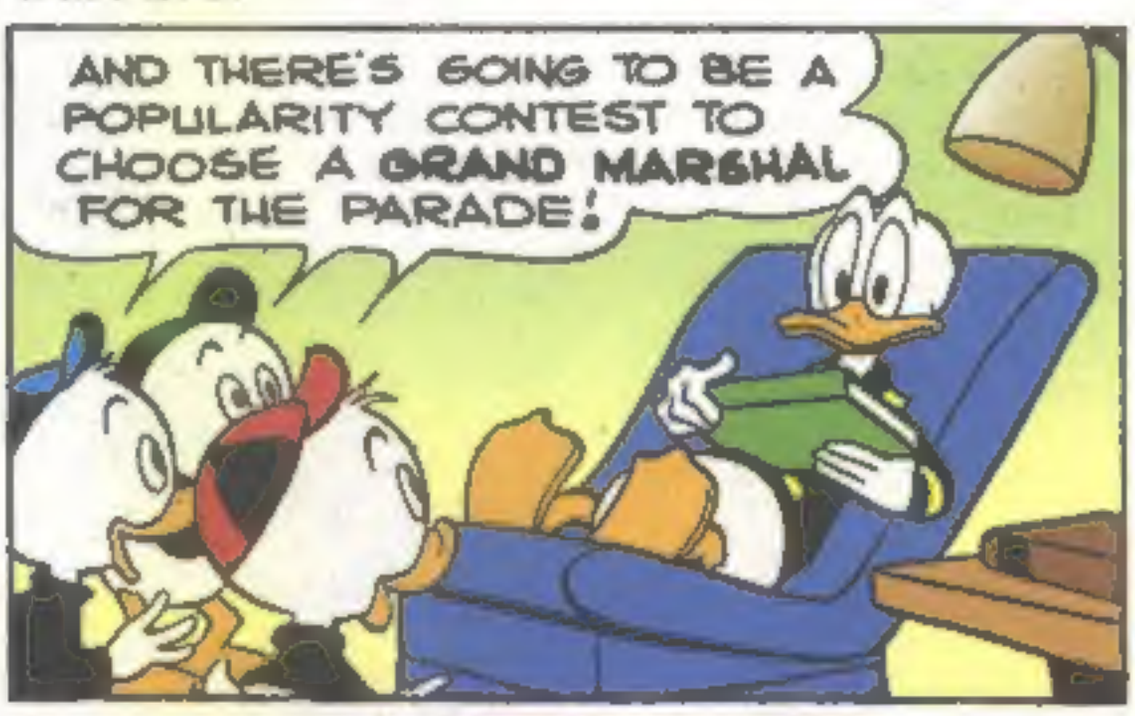
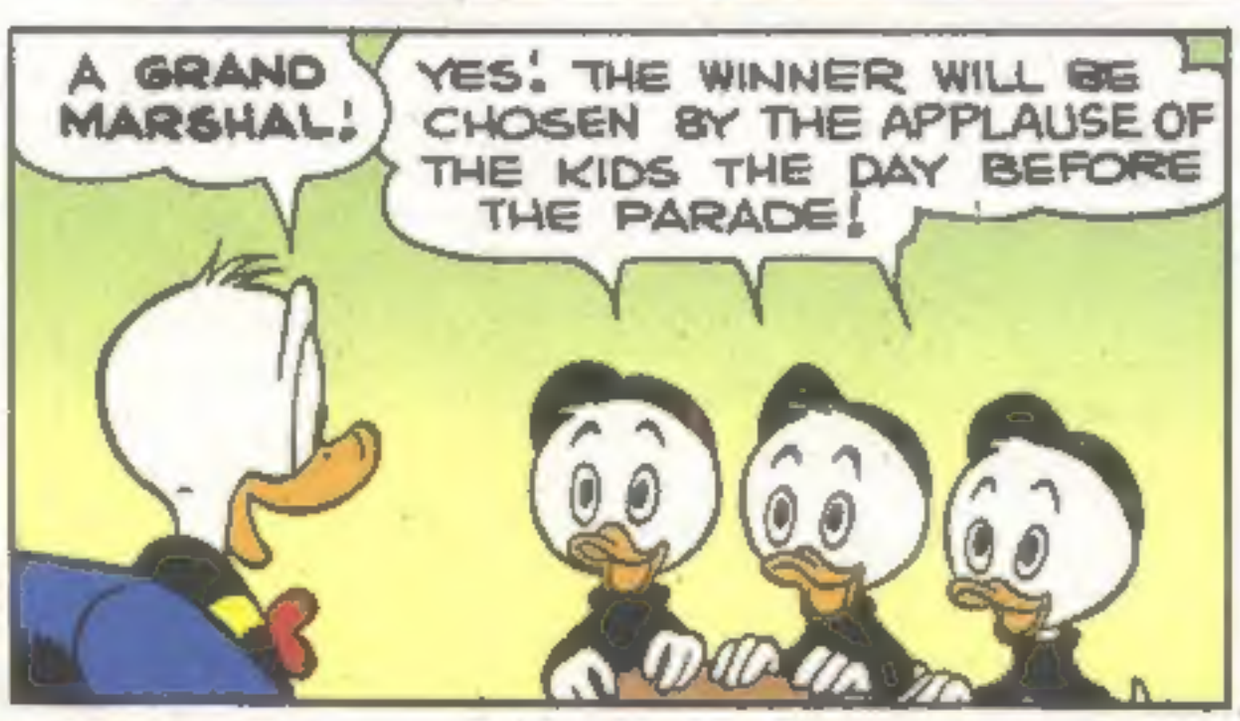
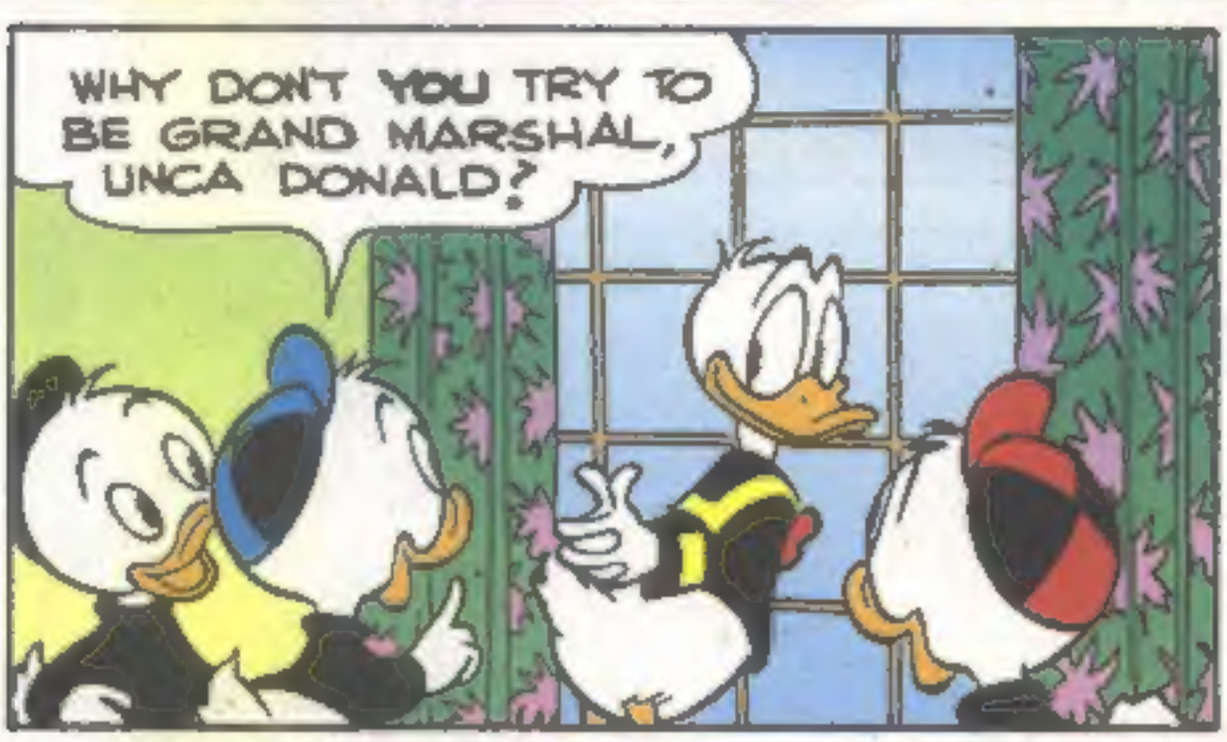
Walt Disney presents Donald Duck

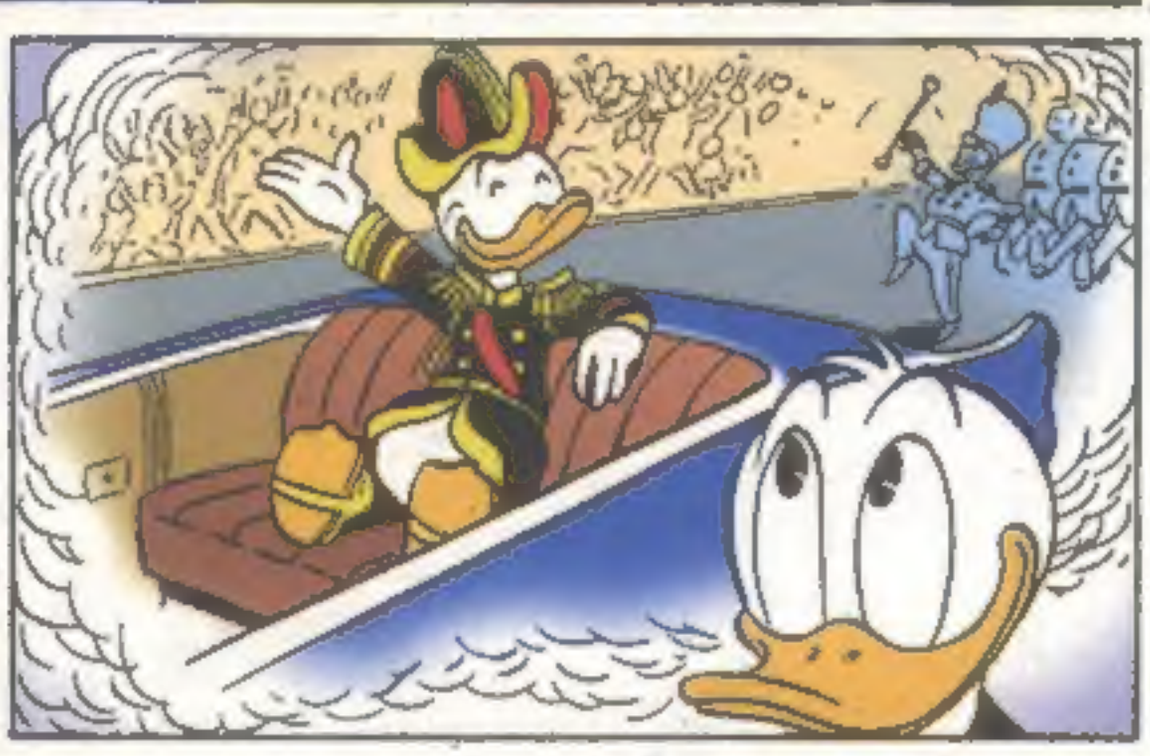
W WDC 151-01


THERE IS GREAT EXCITEMENT IN DUCKBURG! DAISY DUCK'S CLUB HAS PLANNED A GIGANTIC EASTER PARADE!
WINDY WORDS
THERE'S GOING TO BE FLOATS, AND KIDS IN COSTUMES, AND BANDS, AND EVERYTHING!









So-
YOU'LL HAVE TO CAMPAIGN HARD, DONALD! THE CHILDREN OF DUCKBURG MUST BE CONVINCED THAT YOU ARE WORTHY!
I'LL MAKE THEM LOVE ME LIKE A BROTHER!
EASTER PROGRAM

This month marks the 53rd anniversary of "The Easter Election" (W WDC 151-01), which originally appeared in *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* #151 in April, 1953.

WHO ARE THE OTHER CANDIDATES THAT I'LL HAVE TO BEAT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE, BUT HE'LL BE TOUGH!

HE'S GLADSTONE GANDER!

MY NO-GOOD COUSIN!

HAW! HAW! HE'LL BE EASY TO BEAT! WHY, THAT BRAGGING BLOWHARD IS THE MOST UNPOPULAR GUY IN DUCKBURG!

BUT HE'S ALSO THE LUCKIEST! YOU FORGET THAT NOTHING BAD EVER HAPPENS TO HIM!

THAT'S RIGHT! BUT IN THIS CONTEST, HIS LUCK WON'T GET HIM TO FIRST BASE! IT'S POPULARITY THAT PAYS OFF!

UH, OH!

HERE YOU ARE, DEAR, LITTLE, SWEET-FACED CHERUBS — CANDY FROM KINDLY, LOVING OL' GLADSTONE GANDER!

WHY, THAT SOFT-SOAPER! THAT MEALY-MOUTHED MOUNTEBANK! HE'S TRYING TO BRIBE HIS WAY INTO OFFICE!

I WAS GOING TO MAKE SPEECHES, BUT I SEE THAT I'LL HAVE TO CONDUCT MY CAMPAIGN ON A LOW LEVEL!

CANDY

TWENTY POUNDS OF YOUR GAUDIEST CANDY!

HERE YARE, KIDS!... MORE CANDY THAN YOU CAN GET FROM ANYBODY ELSE! JUST REMEMBER TO CHEER FOR GENEROUS, LOVABLE OL' DONALD DUCK!

THAT BOMBASTIC DEMAGOGUE! THE QUACKSALVING SLANDERER! I'LL FIX HIM FOR THIS THIEVING TRICK!

NOW BEFORE I GIVE THIS CANDY TO YOU BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I LOVE EVERY FRECKLE ON YOUR SWEET LITTLE FACES!

KEROSENE

A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR THE KINDLY, GENEROUS SOUL THAT LOVES YOU LIKE A CAT LOVES FISH!

JEEPERS CREEPERS!

WHAT IS THIS AWFUL STUFF?

HE GAVE US SPOILED CANDY!

HE TRIED TO MAKE US SICK!

FEED US KEROSENE, WILL YOU!

YOU KID-HATER!

YOU OGRE!

I NEED ONLY ONE GUESS TO KNOW WHO PULLED THIS SHABBY PRANK!

WELL, I'LL SHOW HIM THAT CLEAN PLAY CAN BEAT DIRTY PLAY, ANYTIME!

FIVE DOZEN EGGS AND A BIG PACKAGE OF COLOR DYES!

A-1 EGGS

I'LL WIN MY WAY BACK INTO THOSE KIDDIES' HEARTS!

VITTLES

El RHUBARB

FIVE DOZEN EGGS AND A LETTERING BRUSH!

LATER:

THE KIDS OF DUCKBURG WILL SWOON OVER THESE LOVELY EGGS!

HUEY, LOUIE, AND DEWEY! GO OUT AND ROUND UP ALL THE KIDS YOU CAN FIND! I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR THEM!

WHILE DONALD IS OUT OF THE ROOM!

HEH! HEH! NOW TO EXCHANGE THOSE EGGS FOR THESE THAT I HAVE DECORATED!

SO-

WHAT A YARDFUL OF HAPPY, EAGER FACES!

OL' TRUEPENNY DONALD DUCK IS GOING TO SEE THAT EACH OF YOU GETS THE PRESENT HE DESERVES!

HUH!

CRY BABY!

YOU'RE A LITTLE SISSY!

SO THAT'S WHAT WE DESERVE!

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK OF US!

?

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT IT DID!

HERE Y'ARE, KIDS! **REAL** EASTER EGGS! **GOOD** EGGS — FROM TRUSTWORTHY OL' GLADSTONE GANDER!

OH, JOY! AREN'T THEY **WONDERFUL!**

HOORAY FOR GLADSTONE GANDER!

HE'S A **PAL!**

HE'S OKAY!

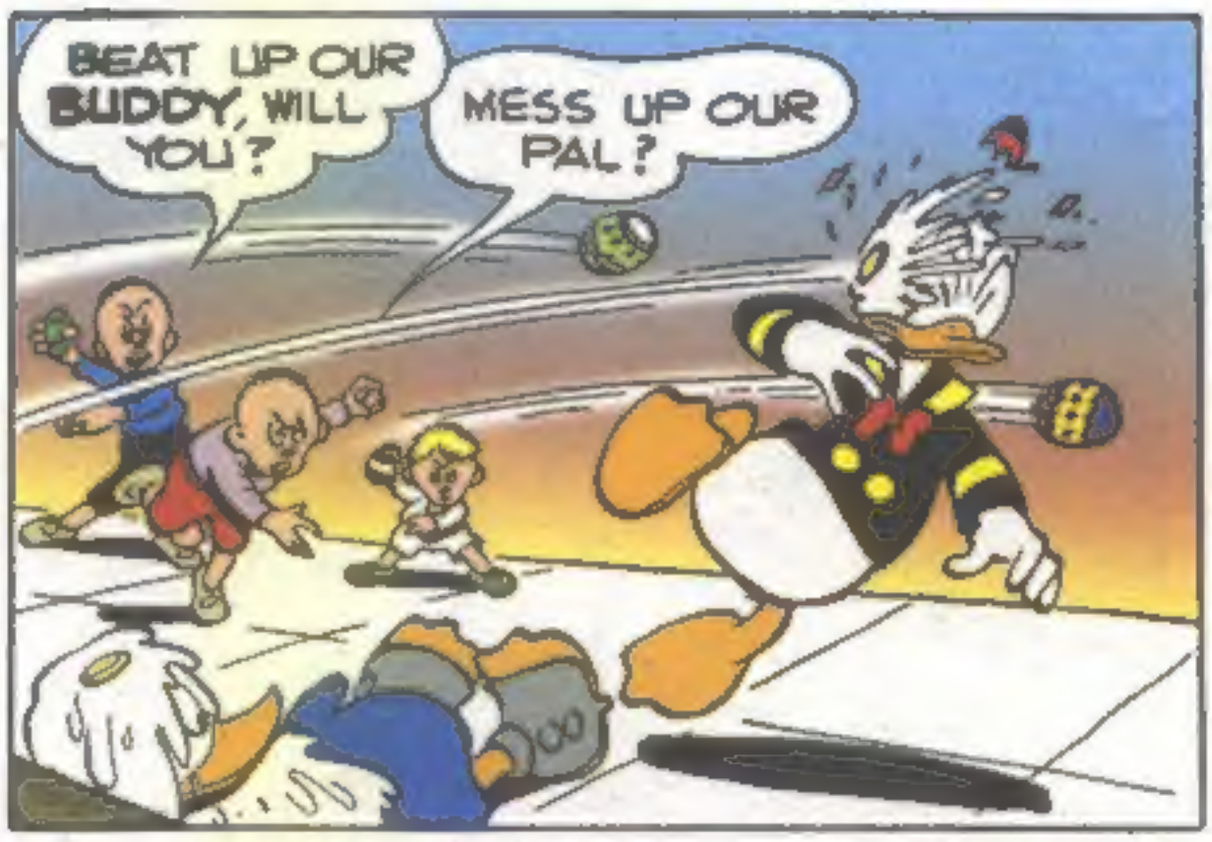
THOSE ARE **MY** EGGS HE'S GIVING AWAY! I SEE IT ALL NOW!

YOU THIEF! YOU HUMBUGGING HOOKWORM!

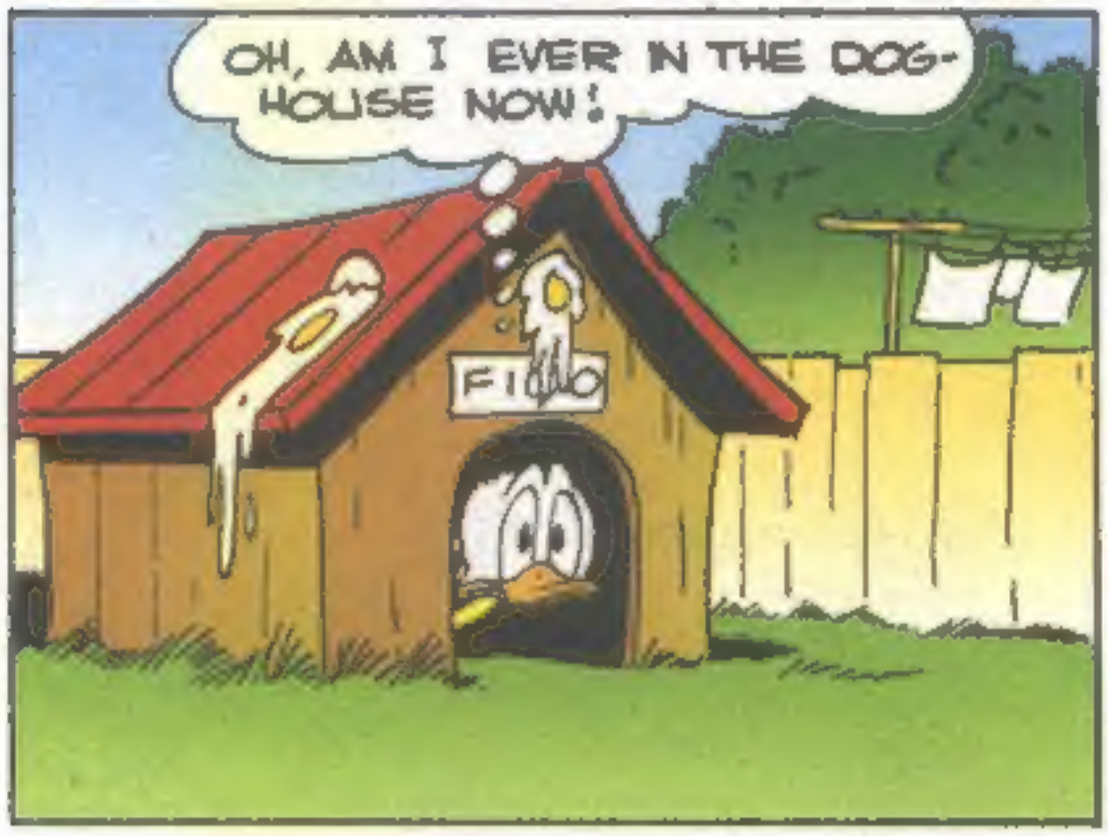
DONALD DUCK

SPLOOK!

SKFLOOGE

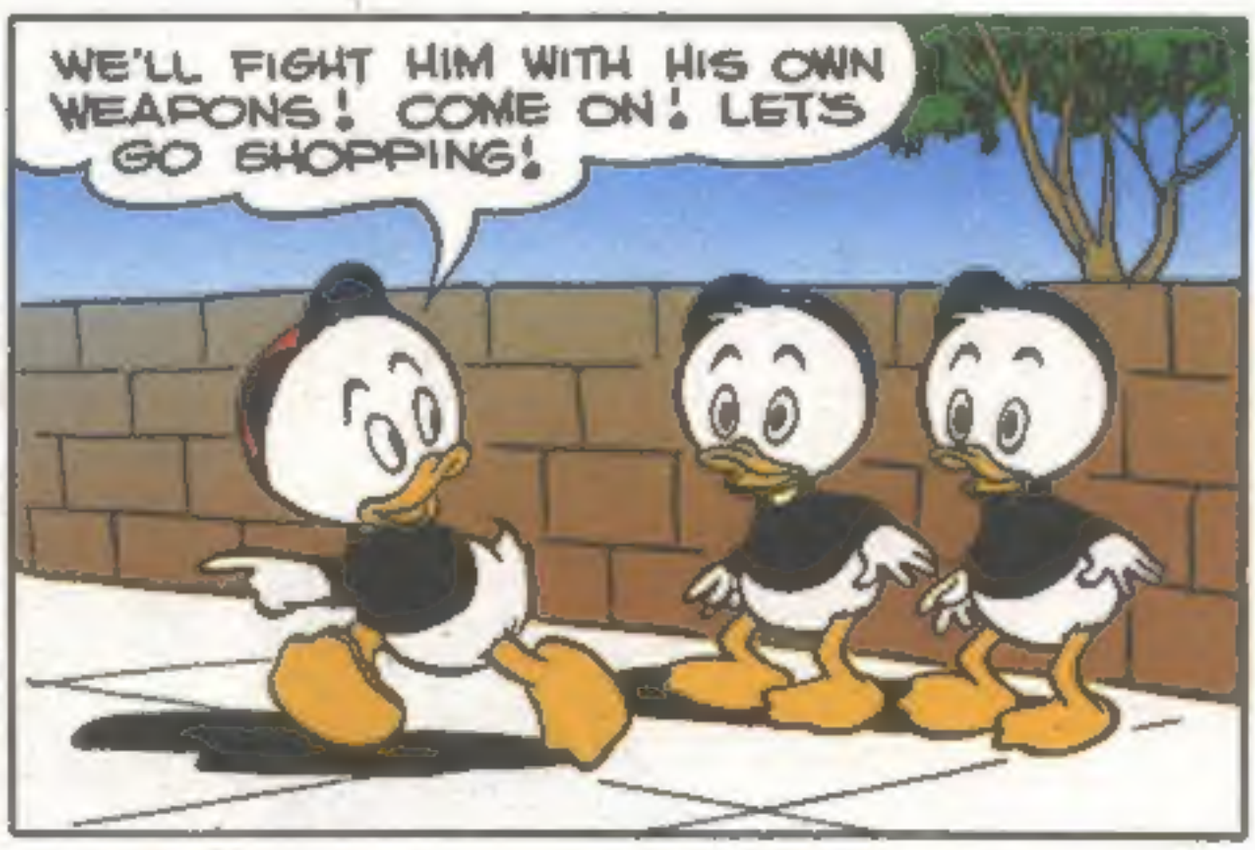

BEAT UP OUR BUDDY, WILL YOU?
MESS UP OUR PAL?

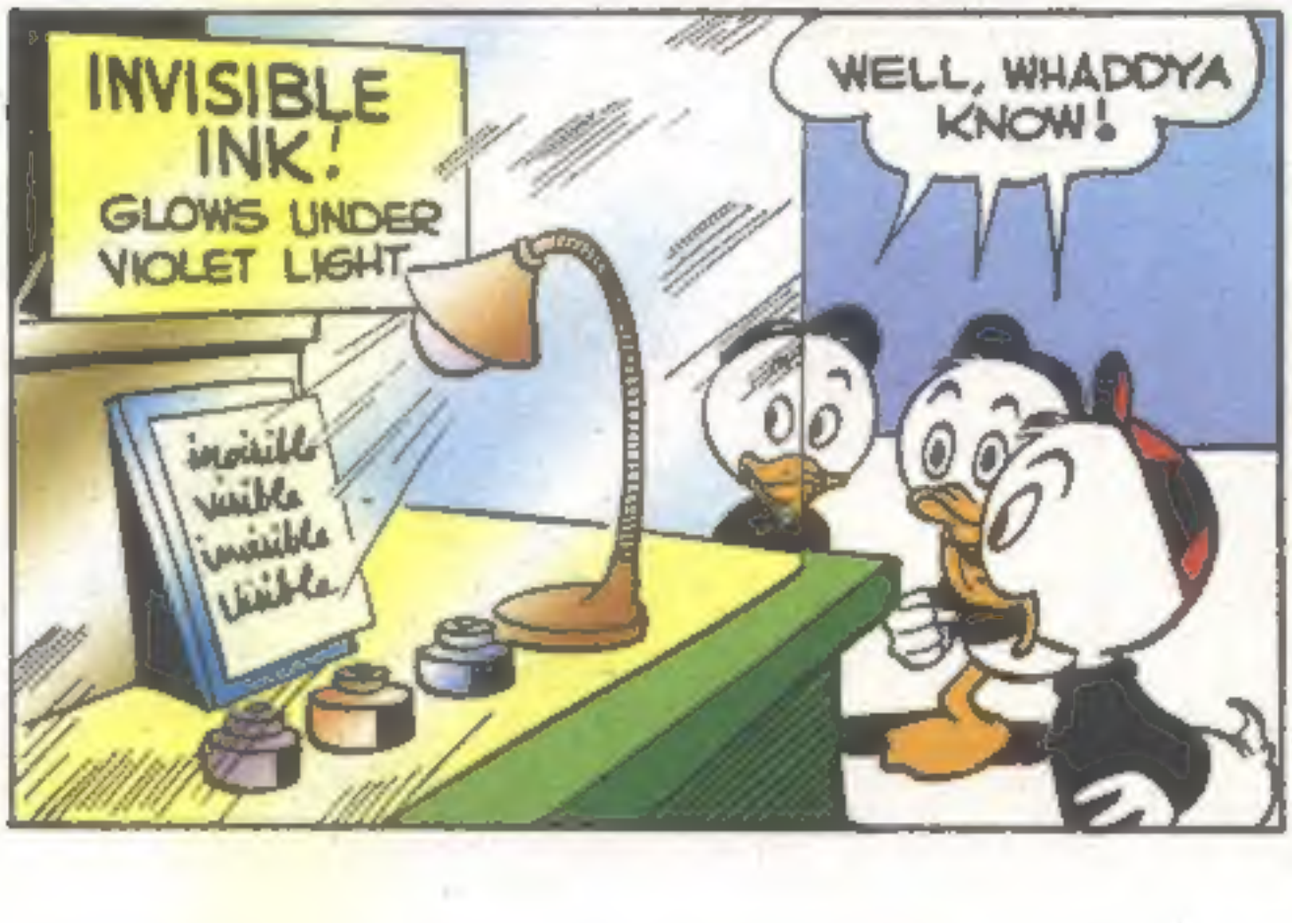
WE'LL HELP YOU UP MISTER GANDER!
YOU CAN CLEAN UP AT MY HOUSE! WE LIKE YOU!
HEH! HEH!


OH, AM I EVER IN THE DOG-HOUSE NOW!
FIDO

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE UNCA DONALD'S CAMPAIGN!
IT'LL TAKE A MIRACLE TO ELECT HIM NOW!

MIRACLE - PHOOEY! IT'LL TAKE TRICKS LIKE GLADSTONE PULLS!


WE'LL FIGHT HIM WITH HIS OWN WEAPONS! COME ON! LETS GO SHOPPING!


INVISIBLE INK!
GLOWS UNDER VIOLET LIGHT
invisible
visible
invisible
visible
WELL, WHADDYA KNOW!

A BOTTLE OF INVISIBLE RED INK AND ONE OF THOSE VIOLET GLOBES!

TO THE CLUBHOUSE, MEN!

WE HAVE THINGS TO DO!

THERE! WE'VE SCREWED THIS VIOLET GLOBE INTO THE SPOTLIGHT!

HOME!

NOW TO MAKE AN ATTRACTIVE GIFT FOR DEAR COUSIN GLADSTONE!

THE HOUR OF THE ELECTION DRAWS NEAR!

I SHOULD BE OUT CAMPAIGNING, BUT WHY BOTHER? ... I'VE GOT THE GRAND MARSHALSHIP IN THE BAG!

UH, OH! THE DOORBELL!

RING!

A TOKEN OF GOOD LUCK TO YOU, SIR, FROM YOUR MANY, MANY, **MANY** ADMIRERS!

NOW, ISN'T THAT **NICE!**

A BOTTLE OF **PERFUME!** MMM-MM — AND IT SMELLS LIKE DAFFODILS!

HAW! DONALD WOULD **REALLY** BURN, IF HE KNEW ABOUT THIS!

MEANWHILE, DONALD HAS THE BLUES!

I DID SO WANT TO BE GRAND MARSHAL! BUT IT'S NO USE NOW! I'LL WITHDRAW MY NAME!

OH, NO, YOU WON'T! YOU'LL COME ALONG TO THE CLUBHOUSE AND HOLD UP YOUR CHIN LIKE A MAN!

SO—

YOU CHILDREN WILL NOW CHOOSE THE GRAND MARSHAL FOR OUR EASTER PARADE!

THE CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE LOUDER APPLAUSE WILL BE THE WINNER! THE FIRST CANDIDATE TO APPEAR WILL BE DONALD DUCK!

BOO! BOO! THROW HIM OUT!

THAT WILL DO, CHILDREN!

THE NEXT CANDIDATE WILL BE GLADSTONE GANDER!

HE'S OUR PAL! HOORAY FOR GLADSTONE GANDER!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

SPOTLIGHT! SPOTLIGHT! TURN ON THE SPOT-LIGHT!

AH! MY MOMENT OF GLORY!

WHAT'RE THOSE RED SPOTS ON HIS FACE?

MEASLES

LEMME OUT OF HERE!

RUN YOU

GANGWAY!

SO DONALD BECOMES GRAND MARSHAL BY DEFAULT, AND GLADSTONE SPENDS HIS EASTER IN QUARANTINE!

THERE HAS TO BE A REASON FOR THIS BAD LUCK! THERE JUST HAS TO BE!

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE KEEP OUT

HERE COMES THE PARADE! ..... AHA! I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT!

MY LUCK DIDN'T FAIL ME! IT SAVED ME FROM BEING GRAND MARSHAL!

NEXT TIME I RUN FOR AN OFFICE, I'LL FIND OUT WHAT SORT OF MONKEY BUSINESS GOES WITH IT!

HOPPITY HOP

Walt Disney's

MICKEY MOUSE in Guru Goofy

AH! ISN'T THIS *GREAT*, GOOFY?! JUST SMELL THAT CLEAN *MOUNTAIN AIR!*

->GRUMBLE!<- MOUNTAIN CLIMBIN' WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF IT WEREN'T ALL *UPHILL!* AND I LIKE MY AIR A LITTLE *THICKER!*

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BESIDES, MUH FEET HURT, THERE'S A HOLE IN MUH SOCK, AND THIS PACK IS HEAVY! SO WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO THE *TOP?*

BECAUSE... *IT'S THERE!*

WHERE'S YOUR *MOUNTAINEER'S SPIRIT*, GOOFY? BE LIKE *HILLARY*- HE DIDN'T *COMPLAIN* ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP O *MOUNT EVEREST!*

HE *DIDN'T?*

THEN HE MUSTA DONE SOMETHIN' LIKE *THIS* TA MAKE THE CLIMB *EASIER!*

HUH?

YESSIR, MICK! I'LL BET THOSE GUYS WHO CLIMBED EVEREST HAD *PLENTY* OF *GOATS!*

BAAAA!

AT THE TOP-

THANKS FOR THE *LIFT*, BILLY! JUST DON'T GO AWAY *MAAAD!*

GOOFY! LOOK AT *THAT!*

HE CAN'T BE *SLEEPING!* HIS EYES ARE *OPEN!*

I THINK HE'S *MEDITATING!* MAYBE WE'D BETTER LEAVE HIM ALONE!

YOU SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT *BEFORE* YOU *BUSTED IN* MAKING ALL THAT *NOISE!*

YIPES! HE'S *AWAKE!*

SORRY, MISTER! WE WERE JUST PASSING THROUGH AND-

TOURISTS! YOU'RE ALL THE SAME! YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, HAVE A PICNIC AND *BANG*- YOU'RE *ENLIGHTENED!*

JUST LOOK AT YOU-YOUR *MINDS* ARE *FAT* FROM YOUR *CUSHY* LITTLE LIVES! IT TOOK *YEARS* TO LOSE THE WEIGHT IN *MY* HEAD AND BECOME *ENLIGHTENED...*

...BUT *YOU* THINK YOU CAN DO IT IN A *DAY!*

WELL, THAT *WOULD* BE MORE *CONVENIENT!*

NO OTHER WORD FOR IT!

OH, *SOME* TRUTHS ARE *EASY* TO UNDERSTAND, LIKE HOW *SMALL* AND *INSIGNIFICANT* YOU ARE! JUST LOOK! IT'S ALL SO...WELL...*BIG!*

GAWRSH!

BUT IF YOU *REALLY* PAY ATTENTION, I COULD ENLIGHTEN YOU IN *TWO* DAYS! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!

I GUESS IF IT'S JUST FOR A DAY OR TWO, IT MIGHT BE *FUN!*

FUN? NO, NO, NO! FUN IS *OUT! SUFFERING* IS IN! YOU CAN START BY PUTTING *THESE* ON!

NO THANKS! IT'S NOT MY *COLOR!* BESIDES, I'VE GOT THESE GREAT NEW *HIKING SHORTS* WITH LOTSA *POCKETS!*

THE PROBLEM WITH *POCKETS* IS THAT YOU NEED SOMETHING TO PUT *IN* THEM!

GAWRSH! I NEVER THOUGHT OF *THAT!*

NOW WE *MEDITATE!* HAVE A *SEAT!*

ON *THAT?!*

IT LOOKS *PAINFUL!*

PAIN IS THE *QUICKEST* ROUTE TO *ENLIGHTEN-MENT!*

COULDN'T WE TAKE THE *SCENIC ROUTE?*

EMPTY YOUR FAT HEADS AND LET YOUR MINDS *GO!*

MY MIND GOES RIGHT WHERE THE *NAILS* ARE *POKING* ME! HOW COME *YOU'RE* NOT COMPLAINING, GOOFY?

I JUST USED *MIND OVER MATTER!*

VERY *ENLIGHTENED,* GOOFY!

QUIET, MICK! I'M TRYIN' TA *MODERATE!*

ENLIGHTENED EATING IS THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT LESSON-

ONE MUST BEG THE FORGIVE-NESS OF ALL FOOD BEFORE COOKING IT OR EATING IT! OH, ROOT, PLEASE FORGIVE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO!

NOW I KNOW HOW THIS GUY KEEPS HIS FIGURE! BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW IF THE FOOD FORGIVES YOU OR NOT?

EASY! YOU EAT IT, AND IF IT DON'T MAKE YOU SICK, YOU'RE FORGIVEN!

AND THE NEXT LESSON MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE-

YOU MUST LEARN TO SURRENDER TO NATURE, NOVICES! GO AHEAD AND JUMP!

JUMP?!!

JUMP, DIVE, OR FALL-IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER! JUST GO!

DON'T STRUGGLE! GO WITH THE FLOW!

WE TRIED TO "GO WITH THE FLOW," BUT THE FLOW SPIT US OUT!

->GASP!<-

IT GETS EASIER WITH PRACTICE!

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WOULD BE GREAT AFTER A HARD DAY OF ENLIGHTENMENT, BUT-

WE SLEEP ON THE GROUND?! BUT... BUT WE HAVE COMFY SLEEPING BAGS!

YOU MUST ABANDON COMFORT AND PLEASURE! THEY MAKE THE MIND FAT!

I S'POSE IT'S BETTER THAN SLEEPIN' ON A BED OF NAILS!

NEXT MORNING-

HEY, MICKEY- WAKE UP!

IMPOSSIBLE! I HAVE TO BE ASLEEP BEFORE I CAN WAKE UP!

I WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT IT! I'M GONNA STAY HERE AND BE A GURU!

WHAT?!

!!!

SON, I KNOW MY LIFE MUST SEEM PRETTY GLAMOROUS TO YOU!

GLAMOROUS?! THE GOATS LIVE BETTER!

BUT, THERE'S ONE LAST THING I MUST TEACH YOU SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE SHARED ALL MY SECRETS...

WHAT IS IT, MASTER?

I DON'T LIKE YOU!

HUH?!

I DON'T LIKE ANYBODY! I CAME UP HERE TO GET AWAY FROM PEOPLE! IF YOU WANT TO BE A GURU, GO FIND YOUR OWN MOUNTAIN!

WITH PLEASURE! C'MON, GOOFY!

BOY, I'LL BE GLAD TO GET *HOME* TO A COMFY *BED* AND YUMMY *FOOD!*

NOT ME! I'M TAKIN' UP *GURUIN'* ON THAT NEXT MOUNTAIN!

SO LONG, OL' PAL! I'LL MISS YOU!

HEY, *WAIT!* YOU CAN'T JUST GO LIVE ON A *MOUNTAIN!*

HUH? WHY NOT?

WELL, BECAUSE... BECAUSE YOU'LL NEED TO...TO *RENT A CAVE* FIRST! AND YOU... YOU'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO *MOUSETON* TO DO THAT!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MICKEY! BUT WE'D BETTER *HURRY* BEFORE ALL THE *NICE CAVES* ARE *TAKEN!*

-:WHEW!:- THAT WAS CLOSE! A *GOOD* NIGHT'S SLEEP, AND GOOFY'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THIS *GURU* NONSENSE!

-:WHEW!:-

THE NEXT DAY, BACK IN MOUSETON-

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IS WHAT I NEEDED, TOO! I THINK I'LL GO BY GOOFY'S AND SEE IF HE WANTS TO GO GET A CHEESE...

...BURGER?!

OH, NO! IT LOOKS LIKE GOOFY ISN'T *GIVING UP* ON THIS GURU IDEA *SO EASILY!*

GURU GOOFY

I HEAR HE *STUDIED* IN THE *MOUNTAINS* WITH A MASTER OF ENLIGHTENMENT!

FAT HEADS ENLIGHTENED FREE!

WHERE DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOING, PAL? IF YOU WANT TO SEE *MASTER GOOFY*, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR *TURN!*

MASTER GOOFY?! GOOD GRIEF!

WELL, THIS WON'T LAST LONG ONCE THEY HEAR GOOFY SPOUT THE *WACKY* STUFF THAT GURU TAUGHT!

BUT WHEN MICKEY FINALLY MAKES IT TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE–

SO, IF YOU *STAY AFLOAT*, FEEL *PAIN* AND DON'T EAT NOTHIN' *UNFORGIVIN'*, YOU'LL BE *LIGHT-HEADED* IN NO TIME!

OH, *YES!* HOW *PROFOUND!* THANK YOU, MASTER GOOFY!

OH, NO! IT'S *WORSE* THAN I THOUGHT! PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY *LISTENING* TO HIM!

GOOFY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING* HERE?!

HIYA, MICK! I KNOW IT'S NOT *PERFECT*, BUT I COULDN'T FIND A *CAVE FOR RENT*, SO THIS'LL HAVE TA DO!

GOOFY, YOU CAN'T JUST *CALL* YOURSELF A *GURU* AND *PRETEND* TO–

→HYUCK!← SEE THAT *POSTER?* MOHAMMED COULDN'T *GET* TA THE *MOUNTAIN*, SO THE MOUNTAIN HAD TA *COME* TA MOHAMMED!

HAVE A SEAT, MICK! LET'S *TONE* THAT *FAT HEAD* OF YOURS!

→HMPH!← I *LIKE* MY HEAD CHUBBY! IN FACT, I'M GOING OUT AND FEED IT A *CHEESEBURGER* RIGHT NOW!

ONLY IT WON'T BE THE *SAME* GETTING CHEESEBURGERS WITHOUT *GOOFY!* HE'S *CRAZY* ABOUT THEM!

SAY! I KNOW JUST *HOW CRAZY* GOOFY CAN *BE!*

SOON-

JUST IN TIME! WANT TO GET A *CHEESE-BURGER* WITH ME?

SOUNDS *GREAT!* THIS GURUIN' IS *HARD WORK.*

GURU OUT TO LUNCH!

DRAT! WAIT! YOU *CAN'T!* YOU DIDN'T *APOLOGIZE* TO THE CHEESE-BURGER *BEFORE* IT WAS COOKED!

GAWRSH, YOU'RE RIGHT! I *CAN'T EAT* NO MORE *CHEESEBURGERS!*

BY THE WAY, I PICKED UP THE NEW ISSUE OF YOUR *FAVORITE* COMIC!

OOOO, LEMME *SEE!*

NO, WAIT! THAT WOULD BE *PLEASURE!* AND DOESN'T PLEASURE MAKE THE MIND *FAT?*

BUT...BUT...HOW FAT COULD IT GET ON A *LITTLE* FISH LIKE *FLIP?*

NO, GOOFY, IT WOULD BE *WRONG* TO TEMPT YOU AWAY FROM YOUR *HIGHER CALLING!*

GAWRSH! WHO KNEW THIS GURU B Z WOULD BE *SO TOUGH?*

UNLESS...UNLESS... EATING CHEESEBURGERS AND READING COMIC BOOKS IS PART OF AN *EVEN HIGHER* CALLING?!

DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS,* MICK! I'LL JUST HAFTA LEARN TO *RESIST* TEMPTATION IF I'M TA LIVE IN AN *UNENLIGHTENED* CITY!

GRR! IT'S GONNA TAKE A *BALLISTIC MISSILE* TO BRING THAT BOY *DOWN TO EARTH!*

GURU OUT TO LUNCH!

-SIGH!- IF I CAN'T BEAT YOU, I MIGHT AS WELL JOIN YOU!

PULL UP SOME FLOOR AND HELP YOURSELF!

CAN YOU TEACH ME THE SECRETS OF GOOFISM?!

MY PLEASURE!

PLEASURE, EH? AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU'LL GET A FAT HEAD FROM ENJOYING THE GURU-BIZ TOO MUCH?

WOW, THAT'S A TOUGH ONE! -OOF!-

SPLASH!

I CAN'T HELP HAVIN' FUN BEIN' ENLIGHTENED, BUT IF I DO, THEN I WON'T BE ENLIGHTENED!

-GULP!- MUH HEAD FEELS FAT ALREADY! WHAT'LL I DO?!

HMM...MAYBE IF YOU GIVE UP BEING ENLIGHTENED AND JUST HAVE FUN, YOU WON'T NOTICE YOUR FAT HEAD SO MUCH!

BY GAWRSH, YOU'RE RIGHT! NOW I'VE REALLY SEEN THE LIGHT!

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME!

AND SO-

-CHOMP!- MAYBE YOU SHOULD BECOME A GURU, MICK! FAT HEAD OR NOT, YOU SURE HELPED ME FIND MYSELF!

-CHOMP!- I MAY NOT BE ENLIGHTENED, BUT I KNOW WHAT I LIKE!

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Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK IN MASTER OF MICE

DUCKBURGIANS ARE CRAZY ABOUT CHEESE! EVERY SPRING, SLAVERING GOURMETS DESCEND ON THE CITY TO CELEBRATE "MILK'S LEAP TOWARD IMMORTALITY!" BROTHER, THEY'RE SERIOUS!

SCOPE IT UP, MEN! THE *INTERNATIONAL CHEESE FESTIVAL* IS COMING!

DUCK-BURG'S GONNA BE *DROWNING* IN TOURISTS!

AND *GRUYERE!*

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...WITH THIS FEST TWICE THE SIZE OF LAST YEAR'S, THE HOLY HOLEY STUFF WILL APPEAR AT 336 BOOTHS COVERING FOUR SQUARE MILES! THAT'S A LOTTA LIMBURGER!

SOUNDS WORTHY OF A LOOK-SEE!

BUT UNCA DONALD WOULD NEVER TAKE US THERE!

HE'S BEEN BUSY IN THE ATTIC FOR DAYS!

WITH SOME SCREW-BALL *PROJECT!*

SMACK!

WHAMMITY-BAM!

YIPPEE YAK YAK! I KNEW MY FINE MIND WOULD WIN OUT IN THE END!

WHAT'S THE FOUR-PLYED IDEA, UNCA DONALD?

I CAUGHT *THIS* VORACIOUS VERMIN! ON MY OWN, I MIGHT ADD, AND WITH CONSUMMATE SKILL!

A *MOUSE!*

NOT JUST *ANY* MOUSE! AN EXTRA-CLEVER *CAVIA CANNIA!* BUT I PASSED THE TEST! I WAS MORE CLEVER THAN HE!

THAT'S NOT SAYING MUCH! →GIGGLE!← →SNORT!←

MY WEEK OF PRACTICE IS DONE! I HAVE *FOUND* AND *MASTERED* MY *TRUE PURPOSE* IN LIFE!

OH, SO?

BOYS, YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE WORLD'S GREATEST *M.O.M.!*

M...

O...

WHA?!

OH, OF COURSE! YOU'RE OUR UNCA AND OUR MOMMY TOO!

YOU'RE SUBSTITUTING FOR SETTING HENS!

BUCK-BUCK- =B'GAWK!=

KEEP TRYING!

INFANTS, I AM NOW A *MASTER OF MICE!* A HOME-SCHOOLED EXTERMINATION EXPERT SOON TO BE ROLLING IN WEALTH!

BUT PEST CONTROLLERS DON'T GET *RICH,* UNCA DONALD!

THEY DO TOO... WHEN THE *WORLD HEARS* ABOUT THEM!

THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!

UNCA DONALD WILL HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY!

AGAIN!

ONE AFTERNOON LATER!

HE JUST DROVE IN WITH *SOMETHING* HITCHED TO HIS CAR!

WHAT'S HE UP TO?

LET'S GET A RODENT'S EYE VIEW!

...*RIGHT AWAY,* MODDAM! YOU'LL FIND D. DUCK ROLLS THE DICE ON RATS AND MICE!

?!

CUSTOMERS ALREADY! WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?

QUIT YOUR STARING! I'VE BEEN DRIVING AROUND ALL MORNING TO LET PEOPLE KNOW I EXIST!

DONALD DUCK
M.O.M.
(MASTER OF MIXT
PHONE 555 MALL

AND NOW A *FORTUNE* CREEPS IN ON LITTLE RAT FEET! SAYONARA!

UGH!

TALK ABOUT HOT AIR!

VROOM!!

SO, MILADY! RUMOR HAS IT YOU NEED A MAN AROUND THE MOUSE!

YES! YES! DO COME IN!

I TRIED TO CATCH HIM MYSELF, BUT HE'S *IGNORING* MY TRAPS!

Hmm! RODENT PSYCH, BOOK THREE, CHAPTER TWO!

"THE RIGHT BAIT WEAKENS THE STRONGEST RESOLVE!"

BUT *ISN'T* THAT THE RIGHT BAIT?

ONE SIDE, MILADY! I NEED TO BORROW YOUR STOVE!

BE MY GUEST, MR. DUCK!

BUT DO TELL! WHAT *HAVE* I BEEN DOING WRONG?

TWO WORDS: *CHEAP CHEESE!*

BUT THE MOUSE WHO SHUNS BRAND X WILL GO *NUTS* FOR PARMESAN-SPRINKLED GORGONZOLA ON ENGLISH WATER BISCUITS!

IT SMELLS *HEAVENLY!* I NEVER KNEW EXTERMI-NATION WAS SUCH A *SCIENCE!*

I'LL DOPE OUT YOUR BILL WHILE WE WATCH AND WAIT!

YOU CERTAINLY *ARE* A PROFESSIONAL, AREN'T YOU?

HERE YOU GO! AND *THERE WE* GO!

CLACK!

ONE BIG-EARED FREELOADER, TRICK-ED BY HIS OWN TASTE BUDS!

AND IN *UNDER* HALF AN HOUR! I'M ALL AGOG!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* WITH HIM, MR. DUCK?

I *KEEP* AND *FEED* ALL THE RODENTS I CATCH! THEY'RE LIKE TROPHIES OF MY SUCCESS!

DONALD DUCK
M.O.M.
(MASTER OF MICE)
PHONE 555-MAUS

BUT CAN'T THEY *ESCAPE* FROM THAT CAGE?

NOT THIS YEAR! A *FORBIDDIUM* LOCK AND BOLT KEEP THE VARMINTS IN LIKE FLYNN! AND THE *KEY* STAYS WITH *ME!*

→TA-DE-DA!← MY NEXT CUSTOMER LIVES DOWN BY THE *HARBOR!*

DUCK
M.
OF MICE!
555-MAUS

BUT I SEE NO *HOUSES* FOR MOUSES! I WONDER WHO CALLED—

AVAST, ME HEARTY! THE JOB'S UP *HERE!*

WE'RE ABOUT TO SHOVE OFF FOR OUTEST BUNGOLIA! BUT FIRST I'M EVICTING ALL THE *RATS* ON BOARD!

SMART MOVE! AND CALLING *ME* WAS A *SMARTER* ONE!

STURDY SHIP RATS THEY BE, MATE! SQUATTING IN THE CARGO HOLD, MUNCHING ON THE MIZZEN!

I'LL LET MY ASSISTANT *GROWLTIGER* GAUGE THE DEPTH OF THE PROBLEM!

GO, YOU HERO! GO TO GLORY!

=REEOWR!=

ARRARGH!

YAK!!

FITZROWRR!!

RIP!

Hmm!

WHOA! RODENTS OF UNUSUAL SIZE!

AND *STRENGTH*, LAD! SHIP RATS FEAR NOTHING BUT *NOTHING!*

TOSS!

SPLAT!

WELL, NOW! I WOULDN'T SAY *THAT!*

FILL THE LEFT BALLAST TANKS WITH SEA WATER! THEN TELL YOUR CREW TO... =BUZZ! MUMBLE!= THIS METHOD NEVER FAILS!

WHAT, *NEVER?*

HARDLY EVER! THE ROPE'S READY— AND *ACTION!*

HISTRIONICS BEGIN...

TAKE THE WHEEL! I HEAR TH' TIMBERS CREAKING! TAKE THE WHEEL! I THINK TH' SHIP IS SINKING!

OUR *BACKS* ARE IN THE CORNER! →SCREECH!←

OUR *BOAT* IS TAKING ON WATER! →YIPE! YAWOO!←

GOTTA SCOOT OUR WAY *OUTTA* HERE...

AND THE *RODENTS* ARE SCOOTING, TOO! I *KNEW* IT!

SCREEECH!

WHEEK!

SQUEEACH!

STRAIGHT DOWN THE ROPE LIKE I PREDICTED...

...INTO A PLACE I CALL *RATCATRAZ PRISON!*

YANK!

SQUEAK!

SQUEEAK!

SNAP!

RODENT PSYCH, BOOK FOUR, PAGE TWELVE! "EVEN THE TOUGHEST WHARF RAT FEARS A SINKING SHIP!" OSCAR-WORTHY ACTING, MEN!

EMPTY THE BALLAST TANKS AND GET US STRAIGHT AFLOAT!

AYE-AYE, CAP'N!

FINE WORK, DUCK! NOW WHAT WILL YE *DO* WITH ALL THOSE RODENTS?

KEEP THEM! THE MORE I HAVE, THE MORE PEOPLE CAN SEE WHAT AN *EXPERT* I AM!

SQUEAK!

BRAAAK!

SHADES OF SINBAD! YE'RE GROWIN' A WHOLE *FARM* IN THERE!

YEP! AND IT'LL *KEEP GROWING* AS LONG AS MICE AND RATS RUN FREE IN THE WORLD!

I TELL YE, FIRST MATE— THAT MASTER OF MICE IS ONTO SOMETHING *BIG!*

A TRUE *EXPERT* IN HIS FIELD!

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS DONALD'S FAME GROWS LIKE TOPSY!

NATIONAL TATTLER

TIMES

COLOR US IMPRESSED, UNCA DONALD! YOU WERE *RIGHT* THAT YOU'D GET *FAMOUS!*

PILES OF *FAN MAIL!* AND TWO THIRDS OF YOUR FANS HAVE MICE FOR YOU TO CATCH!

SORT THE LETTERS BY INCOME! I'M TOO GOOD FOR ANY CLIENT WHO MAKES LESS THAN SIX FIGURES!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY!

THAT NIGHT SEES A GALA DINNER AT GOVERNOR MUTT'S MANSION! EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE IS HERE!

MORE STUFFED SHIRTS THAN A SCARECROW CONVENTION, BUT WE'RE RUNNING SMOOTHLY!

→AHEM!← I'M AFRAID WE HAVE A LITTLE *SITUATION*, GOVERNOR!

A FAT, UGLY *MOUSE* HAS BEEN SPOTTED UNDER THE TABLES AT THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER!

→GULP!← NO! IF A *PHOTOG* SEES IT... WITH *ELECTIONS* SIX MONTHS AWAY...

GOVERNOR KEEPS UNSANITARY HOME!

BIG SQUEAK STINK

I'LL LOSE THE RACE FIRST AND GET AUDITED SECOND! DO SOMETHING, MAN!

YES, GOVERNOR! SOMETHING, GOVERNOR! RIGHT AWAY, GOVERNOR!

FIVE BREATHLESS MINUTES LATER!

I'M SO *HAPPY* YOU COULD COME AT SUCH *SHORT* NOTICE—

BULLY FOR YOU, SIRRAH! NOW SHOW ME THE MOUSE OF THE HOUR!

TH-*THERE!* =SHUDDER!← ON THE DUKE OF ELLINGTON'S CHAIR! IF HE TURNS HIS HEAD JUST A FEW INCHES...

A DELICATE PICKLE CALLING FOR *UTMOST* PRECISION! LEAVE IT TO ME!

I'LL NEED NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES, A SILVER PLATTER, AND COOK DISGUISE #3!

ARE YOU *CERTAIN* YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT! KILL THE LIGHTS FOR FIVE SECONDS, THEN TURN THEM BACK ON!

AS YOU WISH, MR. DUCK!

HUH?!

HUH?!

模造对手

EXCUSE THE DARKNESS, LADIES AND GENTS! OUR HEAD WAITER BUMPED THE SWITCHES WITH A POT ROAST!

I DID *NOT!*

SPILL THE BEANS, MR. DUCK! WHAT'S THE IDEA? AND WHERE DO THOSE *SPECS* COME IN?

NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES ALLOWED ME TO *SEE* IN THE *DARK!* WHEREAS THE MOUSE WAS *BLINDED* FOR A FEW SECONDS...

...WHICH WAS ALL THE TIME I NEEDED!

SON OF A HANGING CHAD! *SUCCESS!*

DUCK, YOU'RE THE *GREATEST* EXTERMINATOR THERE IS! THE INTERNATIONAL CHEESE FESTIVAL IS COMING UP! WOULD *YOU* LIKE TO BE OUR *MOUSE MAN?*

WAK!

DEFENDING THE FEST AGAINST RODENT PESTS, THE MOUSE MAN IS THE MOST *IMPORTANT* PERSONAGE WE—

GOVERNOR, I'M AFRAID THE SHEER HONOR WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM!

BUT DONALD REVIVES! AND SOON THE BIG EVENT IS HERE!

WELCOME, FOOD FANATICS! DEAD MEN ENVY LIVING MITES IN CHEESE... AND *LIVE* MEN ENVY THE *THRILL* WE'RE ABOUT TO SHARE!

OUR ESTEEMED *MOUSE MAN* THIS YEAR IS NONE OTHER THAN CALISOTA'S FAMED CELEBRITY *M.O.M.,* DONALD DUCK!

USING TRAPS, STUN-GUNS, AND INFRARED RADAR SURVEILLANCE, MR. DUCK ENSURES THAT OUR GROUNDS ARE *COMPLETELY* VERMIN-FREE! PERFECTION IS HIS WATCHWORD!

GIVE IT UP FOR OUR MOUSE MAN! THE *GREATEST!* THE *ONE!* THE *ONLY!*

→GIGGLE!← TRY MY *CHEESE LOUISE,* MR. DUCK! I HAVE *SUCH* A CRUSH ON YOU!

WHOOP! WHOOP!

OH! AND I'VE *GOTTA* GET YOUR *AUTOGRAPH!*

MY SIGNATURE IS FREE TO THOSE WHO BEAR GIFTS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO STAND SO *CLOSE* TO A *MASTER OF MICE?*

I'M ALL ATWITTER!

LET'S GO SIT DOWN AT MY TABLE! I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GIRLFRIENDS! →GIGGLE!←

SWELL! THIS IS THEIR LUCKY DAY!

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE DORMOUSE I TRAPPED LAST WEEKEND! IT WAS A FIERCE BATTLE, BUT I BLAH-BLAH YAKKETY YAK..

SQUEAK!

OOOH! HOW EXCITING!

WHIFFLE! WHIFFLE! BURBLE!

YIK! YIK! YIK! YIK!

...AND SO I HEREBY DECLARE THE INTERNATIONAL CHEESE FESTIVAL... *OPEN!*

WHAT THE—

A *RAT!* I SAW A *RAT!*

E-EASY, MAN! IT W-WAS ONLY ONE... RATHER S-*SMALL*—

YEEECH!

AAAIEEE!

RUMMBLE!

SCREEECH!

YEEECH! SCREEECH!

IT'S A RODENT *INVASION!* *HEADS WILL ROLL FOR THIS!*

YO, *IGNATZ!* I'M TRYIN' TA *EAT* HERE!

DO I LOOK LIKE THE *PIED PIPER* TO YOU?

QUICKLY! LOCK THE CHEESE *STORAGE ROOM!* IF MICE AND RATS GET IN *THERE...*

STORAGE

CHOMP! *CHOMPF!*

TOO LATE!

HEY, DON'T YOU RUN THE *FONDUE* STALL...?

AND MY FINGERS ARE COVERED WITH EMMENTHALER! ANY *QUESTIONS?*

A *MOUSE!* A MOUSE IN MY $15,690 WEDGE OF CENTURY-OLD STILTON!

OUR WHOLE *FESTIVAL* IS VANISHING DOWN THEIR THROATS!

AND *THAT DUCK* IS RESPONSIBLE!

OUR SO-CALLED *MOUSE MAN!*

HE BROUGHT *HUNDREDS* OF RODENTS HERE AND LET THEM OUT!

BUT *HE'S* THE DIRTIEST RAT OF ALL!

GET HIM!

EASY, GANG! TAKE A CHILL PILL!

COME BACK HERE, YOU WEAPON OF MOUSE DESTRUCTION!

WE'LL MAKE *CREAM CHEESE* OUT OF YOU!

ONE TIRESOME TRUDGE LATER...

→*WHEW!*← AT LAST THAT MAD MOB'S GIVEN UP THE CHASE!

DUCKBURG 2 MILES

BUT I'M DYING OF HUNGER HERE! GOOD THING I SAVED THAT CUTE CHICK'S CHEESE—

LOUISE! →*WAK!*← IT'S YOU... THE *FIRST MOUSE I EVER CAUGHT!*

CALLOO! CALLAY! →*BURRR-UP!*←

ESCAPE IF YOU DARE, VERMIN! BUT I'LL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF ONE THING! THAT THIS WAS *ALL STARTED* BY A *CAVIA CANNIA!*

YIPE! *YEEK!*

THE END

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I absolutely loved Pat and Carol McGreal's "The Quacking," printed in *Donald Duck and Friends* 335. Much too timid to watch the Jack Nicholson classic—I saw the first half hour or so and was so freaked out I didn't sleep for a week—I found this McGreal yarn more my style. Aside from a few character development issues (the sudden change in the geologist from benevolent and environment-friendly to murderous; the completely misplaced anger of Undercook at the conclusion), this story was great. Great flow, great emotional responses by Donald and his nephews, and a great parallel to a movie I'm too much of a wuss to watch. Excellent art from Vicar as well, as usual.

Carl Barks' "The Master Ice-Fisher" was a lot of fun to read as well. I could be mistaken, but it seems that 1946 was about the time the master began really moving beyond the confines of conventional comic work. Although the pacing is still a bit stop-and-go and the action a little bit forced (like a cartoon transferred to print) in this story, he clearly has begun including sophisticated and multi-panel subplots and gags (witness the 19-panel tent scene, the 10-panel underwater scene, and the 12-plus-panel semi-story-concluding bomb scene) that are hallmarks of his classic adventure stories. The dialogue is getting better as well (is this the first use of "What the Sam hill?" And what is a sam hill, anyway?). It has been enjoyable over the last several issues to watch Barks' progression as an artist.

The only critical thing I have to say about this issue is about the Stefan Petrucha Goofy story, "To the Dogs." A guy leaving three dogs alone, unleashed, in an airport, even for just a moment? Worse, Goofy thinking these dogs were businessmen? I know Goofy isn't the brightest, but doesn't this stretch it a little bit? He thinks they're hungry and they can't speak English because they're licking his face? He takes them into a fancy restaurant and then shopping? Isn't he supposed to be taking them to a meeting? And then he gets completely bailed out of his monstrous mistake because the actual businessmen love dogs? They must be literally insane with love for dogs to make such an about face from incredible anger to being "happy to do business with someone who makes us so comfortable." I've read the letters in your columns and various things my fellow readers have written online, and there are a lot of Petrucha fans out there. But don't count me in that crowd. Great job on the whole, though.

—Robert Hutchings
via email

The phrase "What the Sam Hill" or "What in Sam Hill" is actually an expression from frontier America and was an oath used frequently in the presence of women, when something stronger would then have been deemed inappropriate. It is apparently a reference to Colonel Sam Hill, a New Englander who was perpetually running for office (but never won an election). It started being used in print in newspapers around 1839 and remained a popular saying through the 1950s, so Barks would have been quite familiar with it.

As to your dislike of the Goofy story, I'm reminded of an episode from my college days. I was in the student union, and a young couple—the only other people in the room at the time—were trying to decide what to watch on television and had the following exchange:

Man: "There's a cartoon show on."

Woman: "Oh, I love cartoons. Which show is it?"

Man: "Rocky and Bullwinkle."

Woman: "Oh, not Rocky and Bullwinkle. That's stupid. Who ever heard of a talking moose? Don't put that on. I thought it would be Bugs Bunny."

Apparently our chanteuse in this tale was able to suspend her disbelief when it came to talking rabbits, but drew the line with talking moose. And it seems to me you're having the same problem suspending your disbelief for the Goofy story, when you had no problem doing the same for the lead Donald story, and were even willing to overlook character development issues in that story. Which is fine. We all have different tastes. But does it make Stefan Petrucha a poor writer. No, I truly feel I'm with the majority of our readers in thinking he's one of the best. And yes, I did enjoy the Goofy story. It's a shame you didn't, but maybe you'll like his next effort better.

—John Clark

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and/or content.
We regret we cannot respond to individual letters; however questions of general interest will be answered in our letters column.
QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS OR BACK ISSUES? Contact Angie Meyer at mangie@diamondcomics.com
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MONKEY BUSINESS!

GO BANANAS WITH SCOOP!

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SCOOP - IT'S CHIMPLY THE BEST!

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